

Retro Advisory Committee

Meeting of December 12, 1995

Minutes

In Attendance:

Mike Sotelo, *W.G. Clark Const*
John Gentry, *Decor Carpet One*
DeDe Edwards, *Pederson's Fryer Farms**
Jim Nunn, *Washington Employers*
Donna Ganders, *WA Health Care Assoc*

Dick Mettler, *NW Wall & Ceiling Contr Assoc**
Tom Kwieciak, *Bldg Industry Assoc of WA*
Patty Myntti, *WA Trucking Assoc**
Rob Sumner, *Timber Operators Council**
Kathy Willis, *Labor & Industries*

Guests:

Tom Davies
Brent Kohler
Michael Frasier
Jan Gee
Nikki DeMarce

Mary Hollins
Joe Brown
Nancy Allred
Terry Peterson
Mike Ratko
Joyce Walker

Pam Eaton
Rita Norton
Kris Beason
Dedi Hitchens
Susan Kinney

Introductions - Incoming and outgoing committee members were introduced, and the minutes of the October 10, 1995 meeting were **approved** as distributed.

'96 Legislature - Mike Ratko (*Office of Legislative & Governmental Affairs*) gave a brief rundown on the upcoming legislative session. He also described the effects of last year's regulatory reform on the WAC process the agency follows when proposing new administrative rules.

Retro Reform - Kathy Willis discussed the main points of the bill introduced during last session. Mike Sotelo talked about lobbying efforts regarding this bill by individual employers and groups, as well as by the Association of Washington Retro Employers (AWARE).

Claims Training Modules - Kathy Willis reviewed the status of the training classes being created by retro claim consultant staff. In January, additional feedback from internal and external stakeholders will be obtained. Anyone interested in the training should contact one of the retro claim management consultants. The suggestion was made that the training be a joint effort as much as possible between the Department and retro groups.

External Access - Roy Manicke (project manager) gave an update on the external access pilot project, and explained that the access fee for the dial-up network has been reduced to 9 cents per minute for all users statewide, not just those calling from Thurston County. Roy indicated that other interested retro participants will be given access to the claims information after the first of the year. Enhanced training is being provided to help retro employers understand how best to use the information.

Voc BPR - Joyce Walker discussed the initial report from the VOC BPR group and advised that the new project manager will be coming on board in the near future. Joyce asked for feedback on the

* Term begins January 1996.

report from retro members. It was agreed that everyone at the meeting would be sent a copy of the report.

Retro Coordinators - Susan Kinney, new retro coordinator for Northwestern Washington, was introduced to the committee. Russ Hauss now works out of Tacoma, and Susan is located in Seattle; Gary Van Cleef continues to cover Eastern Washington, and Stuart Brotherston provides retro coordinator services to Southwestern Washington.

Policy Coordination - Kathy Willis discussed methods of disseminating information on proposed policies to retro stakeholders. The advisory committee agreed that Kathy would provide them with the quarterly memo outlining what policies are being worked on and provide copies of draft policies on request. In addition, Kathy agreed that she would share any significant policies that are of interest to the advisory committee.

A draft of Policy 9.20 regarding "responding to employer requests for medical information" was shared. This led to discussion of the RCW regarding release of medical information which is no longer printed on the L&I Report Of Accident forms. The committee made a formal recommendation to the Department to add this language back onto the accident report form.

Other Issues - Donna Ganders talked about the idea of allowing retro members to switch from individual to group membership in mid-coverage year. After discussion, there was overall agreement that this would not be good for the program. Jim Nunn asked if quarterly and monthly reports can be sorted by employer name, rather than numerically. He also asked if the reports can be provided on electronic media.

Retro Symposium - The group discussed the retro conference and decided to hold another one at the 1996 Governor's Safety & Health Conference in Spokane.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, February 13, 1996, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon;**
L&I Headquarters Bldg. (Room #S-216), Tumwater WA